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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE:

SUBJECT Conscription of Former
 Wehrmacht Personnel

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- On 20 June 1947, a number of local youths, aged between eighteen and twenty-five, were ordered to report to the police station at Apolda (J-67) for labor duties. They were told to bring food and a change of underclothing with them. On reporting, they were loaded into eight trucks under a Soviet escort. The escort told them not to worry, that they would get food and schooling, and that "they would one day make as good soldiers for Stalin as they had for Hitler". The truck drove off in the direction of Muhlhausen.
- A former German Navy able seaman who was released from an American PW camp on 5 August 1946 and who subsequently lived in both the French and British Zones, moved to Aschersleben (D-55) in the Russian Zone, on 17 May 1947. While there he registered with the police as a former member of the Kriegsmarine. Ten days later, he was sent to the ex-Wehrmacht Artillery Barracks at Magdeburg, which were strongly guarded.
- At this camp approximately 2,000 Germans--ex-service men of all three services--were kept. Armored force personnel predominated, and these were mainly drivers. All the Germans wore civilian clothes except those who had completed registration. Some of the former Wehrmacht personnel wore Red Army uniforms with a "Germane" shoulder patch on the left shoulder. A few of the ex-sailors wore blue Soviet uniforms with a "Germane" patch on the left shoulder. No former Luftwaffe personnel wore uniforms. The men in uniform worked in the barracks as clerks, cooks, etc. The seaman remained in the barracks for six days; he was then put on a train with 600-700 other ex-Kriegsmarine personnel. They were headed toward Kronstadt, but the seaman managed to jump the train.

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